
Farm Bill Participant

Contract Number

Purpose: Applied to restore the native plant community to a condition similar to the ecological site description reference state for the site, provide or improve forages for livestock and browse or cover for wildlife, reduce erosion by wind and/or water, improve water quality and quantity, and increase carbon sequestration. This practice is used to restore important native habitats by converting cropland to grasslands, to meet habitat requirements for LPC.

I. NRCS will:

- Assist producers with implementing range planting consistent with NRCS Conservation Practice Standards and Specification: Range Planting Code 550.
- Prepare a range planting strategy that will support other practices in creating the desired habitat conditions of the lesser prairie-chicken and that meets the Conservation Measures outlined in the Lesser Prairie-Chicken (LPC) Initiative Biological Opinion providing ESA predictability.
 - ☐ Timing of treatment^a (check one);
 - ☐ no restriction
 - ☐ prohibited March 1st – July 15th
 - * if implementation is required during the nesting season select no restrictions*
 - ☐ Evaluate the site's potential for soil erosion and invasion of undesirable species
 - ☐ Use site specific reclamation strategies developed using ecological site descriptions with timing of planting and post-establishment management as per local site conditions
- Provide a copy of the appropriate Job Sheet and plan map for guidance on implementation.
- Identify and plan other supporting conservation practices (Prescribed Burning, Herbaceous Weed Control, etc.) as needed and in accordance with Biological Opinion.
 - * When converting existing vegetation initial preparations such as mowing and burning may need to be completed prior to the nesting/leking season (March 1 – July 15) to eliminate potential LPC activities in the area to be seeded.*
- Certify practice meets standards and implementation specifications.^b

II. Participant will:

- Implement Range Plantings within the time constraints identified above and specified in the Conservation Plan provided by NRCS.
- If activities are conducted within the breeding and nesting period (March 1 – July 15) they will be completed with as little disturbance as possible to adjacent and surround LPC habitat.
- Ensure that machinery associated with the practice is clean and free of vegetative debris prior to use to prevent the spread of invasive plant species.
- Minimize soil and vegetative disturbances during implementation to the extent necessary.

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- Implement Range Planting in accordance with Job Sheet and specifications provided by NRCS.
- Notify NRCS upon completion of Range Planting.
- Regularly monitor and control State-listed noxious and invasive plants.
- Control livestock access as needed to allow for initial establishment of new vegetative plantings and control weeds through flash grazing as approved by the local District Conservationist.

a should a lek be discovered within ½ mile of project area, confer with NRCS personnel prior to implementation.
b any payment will only be processed upon practice certification by NRCS personnel.

I understand the requirements of the practice, and my questions concerning the practice have been answered. I further understand that a failure to adhere to the above requirements may jeopardize any and all payments and ESA predictabilities provided by the LPCI Biological Opinion.

Participant Signature

Date